



# **HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: 9.2.2004**

**CONTACT: Diana Rodriguez, 713-495-4228**

## **CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVOR THANKS FIREFIGHTERS**

***TODAY, Sept. 2, 2004 @ 10 a.m. Fire Station 70, 11410 Beamer Rd.***

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bethea, Jr. were enjoying a relaxing evening at home last November 2003. They had just watched a movie and were laughing together when suddenly Gordon stopped moving. Mrs. Bethea thought her husband was joking with her and then she realized -- this was not a joke. Gordon Bethea had just suffered a cardiac arrest.

Mrs. Bethea immediately called 9-1-1 and said "the lady that answered my call was instrumental in calming us down and instructed us to do bystander CPR." With the help of Celia Jackson, the 9-1-1 Telecommunicator, family members did CPR. Patricia Bethea relayed instructions to her sister, Kandi Guyston to do mouth-to-mouth and her son, Gordon III (Gordy) did chest compressions. Soon thereafter, Houston Fire Department's Engine 70 and Medic 70 arrived to take over CPR and administer advanced care along with Supervisor 29. Mr. Bethea was stabilized and transported to a local hospital.

This has been a long road to recovery for Mr. Gordon Bethea since that fateful day in November 2003. He has gone from being on life-support and ultimately contracting pneumonia, to rehabilitation through TIRR and on Feb 13, 2004, triple bypass surgery. Through it all this family is "very grateful" to ALL that helped save his life.

Gordon Bethea, Jr., had no prior medical history, no chest pain; he was a healthy 57-year-old man working as a manager for a local pest control company. There was one unique twist however; Mr. Bethea's father had a Cardiac Arrest at the very same age of 57, unfortunately, his Dad, Gordon Bethea, Sr., did not survive.

Mrs. Patricia Bethea truly loves her husband, Gordon. She has quit her job to help care for her husband who she says "is her life partner." She looks forward to meeting and thanking everyone involved in saving her husband's life.